

Reply to Office Action of 04/07/2006
Amendment Dated: May 3, 2006

Appl. No.: 09/824,844
Attorney Docket No.: CSCO-007/3484

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14-21, 23-35, and 37-45 were examined in the outstanding office action mailed on 04/07/2006 (hereafter "Outstanding Office Action"). Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-21, 23-26, 28-33, 35 and 37-45 were allowed. Claims 2, 27 and 34 were objected to, and claims 11 and 27 were rejected. By virtue of this response, claims 2, 5, 18, 27, 30, 34, 43 and 44 are sought to be amended and claim 11 is sought to be canceled. The amendments and cancellation are believed not to introduce new subject matter, and their entry is respectfully requested. The amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-10, 12, 14-21, 23-35, and 37-45 are thus respectfully presented for further examination.

Claim Objections

In point number 3 (a.) of page 2 of the Outstanding Office Action, claim 2 has been objected to, suggesting that the claim be amended to recite "wherein said method further comprises". Claim 2 has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objection with respect to claim 2 is respectfully requested.

In point number 3 (b.) of page 2 of the Outstanding Office Action, claim 27 has been objected to, suggesting that the claim be amended to recite "The computer readable medium.. further comprising one or more sequences of instructions for". The claim has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of the objection with respect to claim 27 is respectfully requested.

Applicants and the undersigned representative wish to express their sincere appreciation to the Examiner for the valuable suggestions above, in addition to those received during the prosecution in the past.

In points 5 and 6 of page 3 of the Outstanding Office Action, claim 34 has been objected to noting that the limitation there fails to further limit the computer readable medium of claim 32, 33, or 36 from which claim 34 depends. The objection is believed to be rendered moot in view of the foregoing amendment, after which claim 34 recites in relevant part "further comprising one or more instructions for generating said request packet

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consistent with UDP/IP protocol." Withdrawal of the objection with respect to claim 34 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

5 In points 8 and 9 on page 4 of the Outstanding Office Action, claim 11 has been rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The rejection is rendered moot in view of cancellation of claim 11.

10 In point 10 on page 4 of the Outstanding Office Action, claim 27 has been rejected stating it is not clear how the feature "wherein said receiving device is not directly connected to said first layer-2 device" materially affects the instructions on the computer readable medium.

It is noted that amended claim 27 depends from claim 26, which recites, "... receiving by said receiving device a response packet from said present layer-2 device, wherein said response packet indicates *whether said second system is connected directly to said present layer-2 device*" (*Emphasis Added*).

15 Amended claim 27 now recites, "*wherein said response packet indicates* that said receiving device is not connected directly to said first layer-2 device" (*Emphasis Added*). The actions/elements of claim 27 are performed only when the response so indicates.

20 Thus, the complained of feature specifies a condition based on which additional actions are caused to be performed by the computer readable medium, and thus materially affects the instructions on the computer readable medium. Withdrawal of the rejection with respect to claim 27 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

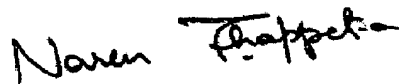
Thus, all the rejections and objections are believed to be overcome and the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned

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representative at 707.356.4172 if it is believed that an interview might be useful for any reason.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Naren Thappeta". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Date: May 3, 2006

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